



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 440

Hearing Date: February 5, 2007
Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Preister, 5)
Title: Change and eliminate provisions relating to learning communities

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - X Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 7 | Yes | Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Burling, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes |
| 1 | No | Senator Howard |
| 0 | Present, not voting | |
| 0 | Absent | |

Proponents:
Senator Don Preister
John Bonaiuto
Jess Wolf

Representing:
Introducer
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska State Education Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:
John Lindsay
Ben Gray

Representing:
Omaha Public Schools
African American Achievement Council

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 440 would redefine Class V school districts and eliminate the requirement for Class V school districts to be divided into new Class V school districts organized around the attendance areas of two or three high schools. A requirement for reorganization plans pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act would be added to include a description of how the plan will reduce the disparities in concentrations of poverty students among school districts. The requirement for school board approval would be applied to dissolution plans submitted for districts not meeting the participation standards in a learning community integration and diversity plan. The hearing requirements for reorganization plans pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act would also be modified.

Section 79-102 would be amended by redefining Class V school districts. There are currently two definitions of Class V school districts. The first definition includes any school districts whose employees participate in a retirement system established pursuant to the Class V School Employees Retirement Act and which embrace territory having a city of the metropolitan class. The revised definition would include any districts embracing territory have a population of 200,000 or more inhabitants with a city of the metropolitan class. The provisions of both the current and revised definitions include a requirement that the district maintain both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single school board. Another definition of Class V school districts, which would be retained, includes any school district with territory in a city of the metropolitan class created pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act and designated as a Class V school district.

Section 79-4,117 would be amended by eliminating a reference to § 79-4,130, which would be outright repealed.

Section 79-4,121 would be amended by adding an element for due consideration in the review by the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts of a plan for the reorganization of school districts pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act. The new element would be a reduction in the disparities in concentration of poverty students among affected school districts.

Section 79-4,122 would be amended by adding a hearing requirement for the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts before a plan of reorganization submitted by a learning community coordinating council is completed.

Section 79-4,123 would be amended by adding a requirement that reorganization plans approved pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act include a description of how the plan will reduce the disparities in concentrations of poverty students among school districts.

Section 79-4,125 would be amended by eliminating a reference to an exception in § 79-4,130, which would be outright repealed.

Section 79-4,126 would be amended by eliminating the exceptions related to § 79-4,130 and § 79-2108 to the requirement of school board approval for reorganizations pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act. Section 79-4,130 would be outright repealed. Section 79-2108 requires the submission of a dissolution plan for school districts that fail to meet the integration and diversity plan participation standards for two years in a row.

Section 79-4,128 would remove a reference to the possibility that school board approval would not be required for some reorganizations pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act.

Section 79-4,130 would be outright repealed. The section requires Class V school districts to be divided into new Class V school districts organized around the attendance areas of two or three high schools.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson